

Sent: February 22, 2021 1:23 PM

Subject: Letter of Comment - Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase - Josée Gulayets

Attachments: Nelson Hydro Rate Increase Letter.pdf

Date Submitted: February 22, 2021

Proceeding name: Nelson Hydro 2021 General Rate Increase

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

Name: Josée Gulayets

City: Balfour

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

Please confirm receipt of my letter that I have attached. As a young rural homeowner, this proceeding is very relevant to me and very terrifying.

Has Attachment:

True

British Columbian Utilities Commission
February 22, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

The potential increase that Nelson Hydro has applied for, a compounded result of at least a 28% increase in power bills for rural residential customers by 2023, is nothing if not absolutely disheartening. As a young homeowner in the area, we chose to move rurally in order to be able to afford housing when costs are skyrocketing all around us. The cost of utilities going up being shouldered by rural customers is chastising those who live rurally for nothing other than conjecture. Nelson Hydro cites that current rates do not “recover the full costs of servicing rural customers”, however after some study, this is only true if Nelson Hydro applies a disproportionate amount of the more expensive power that they purchased from Fortis directly to rural utility users. We are absolutely being discriminated against in hopes that they can keep not only the rates down for city users, but also see all of the profit go directly back within the city limits, not extending outwards to the rural customers who are then taking the brunt of the increases.

It is sad to see, in an area where costs are doubling if not tripling on housing, property tax, and more, an unfair utilities application come forward at a time where most individuals are struggling to get by with loss of work and business. This is our home. I never thought I would be put in the position to be pushed out locally, but that would undoubtedly be the position if this Nelson Hydro increase goes through because if this is to start now, where are we to draw the line? If an increase can be applied for and accepted based off of questionable data and focus on large growth of profits—utilities are no longer being provided as a necessity and basic right but rather only for those who can afford it. Especially for those of us who take much if not all of their business into Nelson, it is feeling like we are not welcome or treated as residents of the area but rather seen as a cash cow for Nelson Hydro’s profit.

I do hope that my letter, along with those of many other voices in our area expressing concern, are taken into consideration as our lives and livelihoods are not and should never be utilised in order to make a profit. If this application goes through, you are most definitely signalling that Goliath can present skewed data in order to make their point and increase their profit, while David gets left out in the cold without power. Do not alienate the people that make the RDCK and Nelson the community that it is—because without us the area will be missing a great deal. In saying all of this, I urge you to reject this application by Nelson Hydro to increase the rural rates.

Sincerely,

Josée Gulayets